

**Remarks in Response to Office Action**

Applicants note that the claims as originally submitted were erroneously numbered as 1-4 and 6-18 and have apparently been renumbered by the Examiner as claims 1-17. The amendment above incorporates the corrected numbering.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected for obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,248,697. Applicants offer to submit a terminal disclaimer to obviate this rejection when the Examiner indicates that the claims are otherwise in order for allowance.

With respect to the remaining rejections, Applicants respectfully note that the examiner has not indicated any prior art rejection of claims 5, 7, 16, or 17. Applicants have amended claims 4 and 8 to incorporate the limitation of claim 5, now cancelled. Certain other amendments have been made in an attempt to address potential issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. No narrowing of the claims is intended by any of the latter amendments. Because each pending claim now depends, directly or indirectly, from amended claim 4, 8, or 16, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now allowable.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 787-1631 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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